

cessful and is coming into great favor among the farmers, is likely to interest forage-crop men.

The asparagus is already such a highly developed vegetable that it may be questioned whether it can be much improved upon. However, the finding by Mr. Meyer of a form growing on dry mountain sides in the southeastern part of the Caucasus, the shoots of which have a special piquancy (No. 32091), and the introduction through Sir Percy Fitzpatrick of a wild form (No. 32271) from Table Mountain, South Africa, which he declares "is a great delicacy and to my taste better than any of the cultivated kinds," can hardly fail to arouse the interest of progressive asparagus growers.

We have scarcely begun to make the acquaintance of the cherimoya, although it is certainly a remarkable subtropical fruit, the cultivation of which in Madeira is a valuable industry. It is claimed that the annona does not bear well at sea level, but one of five varieties just introduced from Costa Rica (Nos. 32298-32301 and 32319) is reported to thrive on the coastal plain of that country.

Dr. Gustav Eisen, of the California Academy of Sciences, during his work in Italy for the Academy, has sent in from near Naples a remarkable plum called the Papagone (No. 32328), which seems not to have been previously introduced. According to Dr. Eisen it is 3 inches long, of a greenish yellow color, has a thin, slender stone, and is the finest plum he has ever eaten in any country.

As heretofore, this inventory has been prepared by Miss Mary A. Austin. For the nomenclature and the notes on the general geographical distribution of the various species Mr. H. C. Skeels is responsible, working, however, under the general direction of Mr. Frederick V. Coville, of the Office of Taxonomic and Range Investigations. The general supervision of this inventory, as of all the publications of this office, has been in the hands of Mr. S. C. Stuntz.

DAVID FAIRCHILD,

*Agricultural Explorer in Charge.*

OFFICE OF FOREIGN SEED AND PLANT INTRODUCTION,

*Washington, D. C., April 29, 1912.*